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# SummitTIMES

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ON TOP OF THE NEWS

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## Adhoc teachers secure Departmental support for regularization demand



**SAGAR CHHETRI**

**GANGTOK, 06 FEB:**

The All Sikkim Adhoc & Temporary Employees Association [ASATEA] has expressed satisfaction with the outcome of the second meeting of the committee instituted by the Human Resource Development Department to look into the demands of adhoc teachers. The meeting was held here at the HRDD head office today. Addressing a press

conference after the meeting, ASATEA members informed that after thorough discussions and deliberations at the meeting, the department agreed to endorse and forward demands raised by the adhoc teachers to the Chief Minister for approval.

A large number of adhoc teachers had turned out again at the Tashiling Secretariat to await the outcome of the meeting. Upon conclusion of the meeting with the department,

the association members sat in another meeting with adhoc teachers at Chokasum Hall in Namnang and appraised them of the outcome.

Speaking to media persons, an ASATEA executive member, Yogesh Sharma, informed that the association had submitted all related data, reference cases and documents to the department during the first meeting of the committee.

He added that today's meeting also discussed

Sikkim Service Rules, related Supreme Court verdicts and other issues.

"Finally, the department has given a positive response to all our issues and is ready to recommend our demands to the CM by tomorrow for final approval," he said.

Mr Sharma mentioned that the department has taken the issue of the regularisation of qualified teachers and those who have been in service for five years or

more in the first phase.

On the continuation of service without any breaks, he stated that the department stated that if the continuation is given for a long time, it would create "havoc" for the department. Hence, the teachers were offered continuation of service in two-year blocks provided the teachers acquired the required qualifications in these two years following which the department

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## 'One Family-One Job only to garner votes'

### UNITED SIKKIMESE FORUM SUBMITS MEMORANDUM TO GOVERNOR

**Summit Report**

**GANGTOK, 06 Feb:**

A delegation of the United Sikkimese Forum [USF] submitted a memorandum to Governor, Ganga Prasad here at Raj Bhawan today. The newly formed forum of different regional political parties of Sikkim has highlighted five different issues of Sikkim and urged the Governor to take immediate action upon the same.

The memorandum includes issues of Citizenship (Amendment) Bill, Chief Minister's remarks on different communities and menstruation, Rojgar Mela and Janta Mela, financial mismanagement in the government and organic mission.

Addressing a press conference here today, USF members said that the Governor has given positive assurance to look into the matter. They have also stated that USF will now start series of activities from



next week onwards to press these issues.

The press conference was addressed by USF convener and MLA, RN Chamling, Sikkim Sangram Parishad president and former MP, Dil Kumari Bhandari, Sikkim United Front president, Narendra Adhikari, Hamro Sikkim Party president, Dr Bina Basnett and Sikkim Subject Committee vice-convenor, Nawin Kiran Pradhan.

The memorandum states that the Citizenship (Amendment) Bill is a direct threat to Article 371F and Sikkim Subject. The forum has also objected to Sikkim Lok Sabha MP, PD Rai supporting the said bill in the Parliament. According to the USF, the Bill in the present form will endanger the rights of the

Sikkim Subject.

The delegation requested the Governor to apprise the Central Government that Sikkim, which already has a high number of migrants, cannot share the burden which is going to arise out of the Citizenship Amendment Bill.

The memorandum states that the Chief Minister's remark on menstruation was sexual in content and outraged the modesty of women. The memorandum adds that the CM should have been booked under section 354 of the IPC for outraging the modesty of the women and under section 354A of the IPC for making remarks which were sexual in content against women. The memorandum further

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## Board exam dress rehearsal begins in Namchi



**SUMMIT REPORT**

**NAMCHI, 06 FEB:**

Around 2,000 students from all 53 secondary and senior secondary schools of South district and also some from East and West Sikkim schools, began their pre-Board examination here at the Career Counseling and Information Centre today. The exam, a mock board examination held for students to check their preparedness for approaching board exams, will continue till 08 Feb.

Held under the aegis of the Human Resource Development

Department, South, in collaboration with North Point Residential School (NPRS), Ranidanga, Sili-guri, and Career Counseling and Information Centre, Namchi, the exam has been billed as a Dress Rehearsal for the forthcoming CBSE Examination 2019.

The evaluation of the papers will be done by NPRS results provided to the students at the earliest for them to know their level of preparation. NPRS has also prepared the question papers modeled on the Board exam format.

## Health Deptt contractual employees stage dharna at head office with regularization demand



**SUMMIT REPORT**

**GANGTOK, 06 FEB:**

In continuation of indefinite pen down strike on a single-point demand of regularisation, contractual employees of National Health Mission, Sikkim State AIDS Control Society and Ayush of Sikkim staged a dharna here at

the Health Department head-office today.

They also staged a sit-in in front of the office of the Commissioner/ Secretary of Health Department with their demand.

After speaking with the employees on dharna, the Secretary along with other senior offi-

cials of Health Department went to the Department of Personnel to find out how far the concerned file had been processed.

Speaking to media persons, the contractual employees on dharna stated that the movement will be continued until they will get the

regularisation order in their hands.

"We have a single demand, that of regularisation and we will not compromise on this. We just want that the department to regularise us like it has absorbed doctors and nurses hired under similar provisions as us," they said.

## Temple board, Kerala oppose pleas seeking review of verdict allowing women into Sabarimala

**NEW DELHI, FEB 6 (PTI):**

The Travancore Devaswom Board, which runs Sabarimala temple, Wednesday made a U-turn to support the Supreme Court's order allowing women of all ages enter the shrine as it joined the Kerala government to oppose a batch of pleas seeking review of the historic verdict.

A five-judge constitution bench headed by Chief Justice Ranjan Gogoi reserved its decision after hearing various parties for three and half hours, including those seeking reconsideration of the September 28, 2018 judgement, even as the Board later asserted that its latest position was not due to any political pressure.

Some right-wing activists have alleged that the Board changed its

stand before the court under pressure from the state's CPI(M)-led LDF government. The apex court, by a majority of 4:1, had lifted the ban that prevented women and girls between the age of 10 and 50 from entering the famous Ayyappa shrine in Kerala and had held that this centuries-old Hindu religious practice was illegal and unconstitutional.

However, as many as 65 petitions -- including 56 review petitions and four fresh writ petitions and five transfer pleas -- were filed in the apex court after its verdict sparked violent protests in Kerala.

The five-judge constitution bench, which had earlier agreed to hear the pleas in an open court, reserved its decision after hearing the parties,

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## This 'regularisation' business must stop

**TSHERING EDEN**

The floodgates have opened and National Health Mission contractual employees are the latest to want a share of the 'regularization' sop that is being handed out by the state government just months before the elections. Demands for regularization have become a pre-poll tradition now and more often than not, the powers that be succumb to the pressures of holding on to the popular mandate. In a state that admittedly earmarks 70 per cent of its finances towards salaries for state government employees, new recruitments, as these ought to be taken as, cannot be as random as they are now.

Ad hoc employees were hired for a particular purpose, on the fulfilment

of which they should be let go. We all know what temporary means and contractual workers are also hired for a purpose and duration as listed in their contracts. Regardless of whether they were recruited following a proper process of selection or not, the point is that these employees were not hired for the regular post that they very often lay claim to after completing a certain number of years in service. The years spent in temporary service cannot qualify one for permanent appointment except perhaps on compassionate grounds, but can compassionate grounds apply to thousands? No.

A regular post should be open for all. The practice of regularization is

unhealthy at various levels. Regularization in effect means that employees who may or may not have been hired following a proper process will occupy the posts for approximately 20-30 years delaying new vacancies. En bloc regularization puts more pressure on the state exchequer and administration as compared to systematic and planned recruitments that could benefit both the state and employee.

Let's not forget, when you demand regularization, you are demanding a job. When this demand is based on the argument that you have spent 'so' many 'precious/ productive' years of your life in service, you are demanding that job on compassionate grounds, not as a

right. Particularly saddening is the fact that it is 'teachers' who want to forego due process instead of demanding vacancies, stringency and transparency in the recruitment process, better facilities in schools, etc. A government job is not a means to provide social justice, and when it comes to teaching, it is a profession holding the immense responsibility of shaping future generations. One grows up wanting to be a 'teacher', not 'government teacher'.

"The next phase of our development and programme will be qualitative development and to make the people of Sikkim the best human resource in the world. Our total focus would be on qualitative development, human

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## Tharoor nominates Kerala fishermen for Nobel Peace Prize 2019

**THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, FEB 6 (PTI):** Congress leader Shashi Tharoor has recommended Kerala fishermen, whose deeds of courage were the main highlight of the rescue operations during the 2018 Kerala floods, for the Nobel Peace Prize.

“It was during the height of this tragedy that fishermen groups of Kerala, at great risk to their lives and potential damage to the boats that are the source of their livelihood, jumped into the fray to save their fellow citizens,” Tharoor, MP from Thiruvananthapuram, wrote to the Chairperson of the Norwegian Nobel Committee.

The Committee is responsible for the selection of eligible candidates and the choice of Nobel Peace Prize Laureates.

Tharoor said the fishermen took their boats inland and with their expert knowledge of the local conditions, their participation in the ongoing relief operations proved to be a gamechanger.

Not only were they able to pick up stranded personnel in their vicinity, they were also instrumental in guiding

boats of other rescue teams amid the swirling waters, he said.

Fishermen groups across the country represent some of the most socio-economically underdeveloped segments, Tharoor said, adding Kerala’s fishermen are no exception.

“In spite of these conditions, as their lifesaving service during the floods clearly demonstrated, there is an extraordinarily altruistic spirit that animates and drives these coastal warriors of the state,” he said in the letter, a copy of which was released to the media here.

“The lasting image of a fisherman bending low in the water so as to allow an older person he had rescued to climb on his back and get on his boat is a particularly striking reflection of this spirit that has been etched into the hearts of a grateful community,” he wrote.

At least 488 people died in Kerala due to the rains and floods during the southwest monsoon. The worst devastation was reported in August when the state was ravaged by floods.

## Former Pak PM Gilani stopped from leaving country

**M Zulqernain**  
Lahore, Feb 6 (PTI): Former Pakistan Prime Minister Yousuf Raza Gilani was stopped from leaving the country by security officials at the Lahore airport late Tuesday night. According to the Federal Investigation Agency, Gilani had reached the Allama Iqbal International Airport in Lahore to catch his flight for South Korea via Bangkok to attend a conference. However, his name was on the no-fly list.

“At the immigration counter, Mr Gilani was told that his name was placed on the black list therefore he could not leave the country,” the FIA said, adding that it was following orders from the interior ministry. Reacting strongly, the senior Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) leader said he had always

appeared in court in the different ongoing cases against him. “There was no point in placing my name on (the) no-fly list. I was not fleeing the country. Prime Minister Imran Khan’s sole agenda seems to be targeting his political opponents,” he said.

The ruling Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) government should have informed me about blacklisting my name, Gilani said, adding that he will challenge the “illegal decision of the government”.

Gilani is facing several corruption cases and last week, the accountability court of Islamabad had rejected his plea seeking exemption from personal appearance in a case related to awarding alleged illegal advertising contract to a private ad agency.

### Adhoc teachers...

would regularise their services as well, he informed.

He stated that after agreeing to these two issues, the third demand seeking reservation in government employment became immaterial since there would be no adhoc system left hence there was no need for the reservation.

“For the required qualification, teachers need to get a B.Ed. degree from an NCT recognised university. On the same, we have urged the department to write to the HRD Ministry to make a provision for teachers to pursue B Ed from IGNOU since distance learning for B Ed has been discontinued since 2017,” Mr Sharma said.

He added that the association has also requested the department for one time relaxation in the roster system of the government to immediately start the regularisation process.

He informed that issues of commerce and physical education teachers were also discussed in the meeting and received a positive response from the department.

Mr Sharma informed that the department will be providing the minutes of the meeting tomorrow to the association. “The Department has informed that many adhoc teachers have already been absorbed in service under the One Family, One Job scheme of the government. So on the same, we have agreed to help the department prepare the exact data of adhoc teachers and the list of trained and untrained teachers,” he said.

On behalf of teachers, the association has thanked the department for the positive response.

“We are very hopeful that the CM will take our issue seriously and bring out an immediate solution in our interest,” he said. He added that the regularisation process will start immediately with the approval of the CM. The association has also urged all adhoc teachers to immediately provide the required data to the department.



## Agro-forestry training at Tashiding

**SUMMIT REPORT**  
**GANGTOK, 06 FEB:**

The Food Security and Agriculture Development Department organized a training program on agro-forestry at Tashiding, West Sikkim, today.

A hundred farmers from the area attended the training along with Panchayat President GB

Bista, Joint Director Agri. West, DS Chettri, ADO Geyzing Subdivision, Ganesh Kumar Gurung, HDO Kusendra Sharma, WDO, VLWs, and Resource person Phurcho Lepcha, ATM (Asst. tech manager) from ATMA West Sikkim.

Mr Chettri welcomed the participants and briefly explained the cluster development at Lasso

village through agro-forestry.

The resource person highlighted the scope of agro-forestry while Ganesh K Gurung explained the package and practices of maize hybrid which was distributed today.

The program concluded with distribution of maize seeds, vermicompost, poly pipes and other inputs to the progressive farmers.

## Honey Mission begins in Sumbuk



**SUMMIT REPORT**  
**SUMBUK, 06 JAN:**

An awareness and Beginner Beekeepers Training Programme was held at Sumbuk, GPK Hall in South Sikkim on 05 Feb by Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC). An official press release informs that the programme was attended by BN Roy, Assistant Director KVIC, Master Trainer Youl Rai, NYV

Suyog Pradhan, and Ward Panchayat Parlad Rai.

Mr Roy explained the different programmes under Pradhan Mantri’s Employment Generation Programme (PMEGP) of KVIC. He claimed that the government provides extensive opportunities to the youth, women and people of Sikkim and that they must come forward.

He also briefed the gathering about loan

schemes and of subsidies available to beneficiaries.

Suyog Pradhan informs that 25 participants will be trained for five days and that each participant will receive 10 bee boxes with live colonies along with a tool kit comprising of a bee veil, smoker, and hive tools.

Yaul Rai, in turn, motivated the participants with his own experience in bee keeping.

### Temple board, Kerala...

including Nair Service Society, Thanthy of temple, temple Board (TDB) and the state government, in favour and against the review plea. The bench, also comprising justices R F Nariman, A M Khanwilkar, D Y Chandrachud and Indu Malhotra, was in for a pleasant surprise as the temple board, which also comprises the state government nominees, took a U-turn by supporting the verdict and said the people should gracefully accept it. The temple board, in earlier round of litigation, had opposed the PIL by Indian Young Lawyers Association seeking to throw open the shrine for all women. Justice Malhotra interdicted senior lawyer Rakesh Dwivedi, appearing for TDB, and said, “You had argued against women’s entry”.

“The Board has now decided to respect the judgment”, Dwivedi replied, adding, “Article 25 (1) equally entitles all persons to practice religion.”

“Women cannot be excluded from any walk of life on biological attributes... equality is the dominant theme of the Constitution,” Dwivedi

said. The Kerala government, which had taken conflicting stands on women’s entry into the hilltop shrine, supported the verdict and urged the court to trash review pleas. Senior advocate Jaideep Gupta, appearing for the state government, said a constitutional court should not worry about law and order problem and “social disturbances”. Exclusion of women from temples is not an essential practice of Hindu religion, he said.

At the outset, the bench told lawyers it would hear only those who are parties to review petitions and asked them to confine arguments on grounds for reconsideration of the judgment. Senior advocate K Parasaran, appearing for Nair Service Society, assailed the majority verdict, saying Article 15 of the Constitution throws open for public the secular institutions of the country but doesn’t deal with religious institutions. Seeking a reconsideration, he said the Article 17 which deals with abolition of untouchability in society was wrongly used by the court in its judgment as exclusion of certain age groups of

women was not based on caste. Parasaran also referred to the celibate or ‘Naishtika Brahmachari’ character of the Sabarimala deity and said the exclusionary practise was based on nature of the deity and the apex court should have considered this aspect. He also referred to Article 25 (fundamental right to practice religion) and said unless a religious practice is “abhorrent”, a court usually does not interfere with the activities associated with religious institutions. Senior advocate A M Singhvi, representing TDB’s ex-chairperson, argued in favour of a review of the judgment.

“There is no exclusion of women. There is no exclusion of men. There is no exclusion of a class of men or women based on religion and caste. There is an exclusion inside a class (women). Hence Article 17 (removal of untouchability) will not apply,” Singhvi said. Dealing with the aspect of constitutional morality, the lawyer said that in a pluralistic Hindu society this concept cannot be applied objectively by the court and it has to be subjective keeping in mind different essential

## Priyanka Chopra-produced Marathi film ‘Firebrand’ to premiere on Feb 22

**MUMBAI, FEB 6 (PTI):** Priyanka Chopra’s Marathi production venture, “Firebrand”, will premiere on Netflix on February 22. The film, directed by National Award winner Aruna Raje, is Netflix’s first licensed original film in Marathi, the streaming giant said in a statement.

The project has been produced by Priyanka and her mother Madhu Chopra, through their banner Purple Pebble Pictures. “The age of digital has changed the way we consume content. Today, the story is king and audiences are open to and accepting of all kinds of genres. We scroll for content that appeals to our mood and mind, equally.”

“This definitely was one of the major reasons behind our move of taking our latest Marathi project ‘Firebrand’ straight to Netflix. A story like ‘Firebrand’ deserves to reach audiences far and wide and I’m thrilled to be bringing this to Netflix,” Priyanka said.

### ‘One Family-One...

alleges that the speech of the CM on the same day had communal and divisive approach.

Accusing the SDF government of appeasement politics, the memorandum states that the recent Ronggar Mela was one such example in which 12,000 candidates were issued appointments letters with a condition No. 1 which clearly states, “The appointment is purely temporary and does not confer right to regular appointment”.

This procedure of appointing employees for public service is not only unconstitutional and illegal but moreover it jeopardizes the career of huge number of people by issuing arbitrary appointment letters with the sole intention to garner votes, it is added. On the same, the forum has stressed that all such appointments be made regular and not ‘temporary’ so that no controversies arise in future.

On financial mismanagement, the memorandum highlighted that according to the CAG Report for the year end March 2017, the Revenue receipt of the state of Sikkim was Rs. 4610.30 crore and out of these, Rs. 3506.10 was grants from GoI and share of Union Taxes and duties.

USF has said that the figure clearly shows that approximately 76% of the revenue receipt for the state of Sikkim was generated from the Union. The memorandum mentions that CAG states the total debt of the state till 2016-17 to be Rs. 4671.18 Cr and the expenditure alone on salary was 37.58% of the total revenue receipt of financial year 2016-17.

“The financial liability and the debt of the state is sharply increasing but on the other hand, the state government is wasting public exchequer money on unwanted projects, extravagant expenditure, appeasement politics mostly in connivance with unlawful, corrupt and illegal acts. We as a forum request Your Excellency to kindly check on the mismanagement of the State finances so that the state resources reaches the most-needy and to the people till the last,” the memorandum urges.

On organic mission, the memorandum demands that the state government compensate farmers for losses and subsidize organic products so that the common man can buy organic products.

### This ‘regularisation...

resource development and qualitative and life oriented education in our next government,” Chief Minister Pawan Chamling had recently said. This looks unlikely to happen if teacher recruitments are not taken seriously.

The state government recently created 4,770 posts for appointment of temporary employees who have completed more than five years of service. 3,500 adhoc teachers and 1,500 teachers under Sarva Shiksha Abhiyaan are demanding regularization. Around a 100 NHM contractual employees are demanding regularization. About a month or so ago, a group of 44 nurses who had failed recruitment exams also demanded jobs. Last year, 50 ad hoc lecturers objected to the regularization of 19 ad hoc lecturers who were appointed on the basis of them fulfilling the required criteria even though they themselves had not passed interviews conducted by the Sikkim Public Service Commission [SPSC].

Seriously, Sikkim? Is this what we are? A state where the youth demand hand-outs? It was the ruling party which opened this Pandora’s Box in the last election by offering the regularization sop for temporary employees who have served for 5-15 years. Not a single opposition party sees anything wrong in it because the voters do not see anything wrong in it. Why? Because there is no faith in the recruitment process already in place and the blatant back door entries don’t help either. Since the privileged have been gaming the system all along, the masses of government job seekers, including those already halfway there, have no qualms about leveraging political timing to secure regularisation instead of flaunting merit to command selection since the system has consistently proven its disregard for fairness or transparency.

The regularization business must however stop in order to banish the ‘dailo bhitra khutta matra...’ view that most Sikkimese hold. Only then, perhaps, can the youth think of going out into the world, taking charge of their lives, taking risks, making something of themselves.

In today’s age, a government job is something you should settle for, not aspire to.

### BEFORE THE LEARNED OATH COMMISSIONER, EAST SIKKIM AT GANGTOK

#### AFFIDAVIT / DECLARATION

I, Bishnu Prasad Sharma s/o Late Gauri Shanker Bahun, aged about 53 years, Hindu by faith, resident of Polok, Denchung, Samtar, P.O. Nandu Gaon & P.S. Jorethang, South Sikkim, do hereby solemnly affirm and declare on oath as follows:-

1. That I am the legal and natural father of Miss Priya @ Hira Devi Sharma of Poklok, Denchung, Samtar, Nandu gaon, South Sikkim.
2. That her actual and correct name is “Priya Sharma” and we use to call her by the same name.
3. That inadvertently in her Birth Certificate her name has been recorded as Hira Devi Sharma which as given to her by the Priest.
4. That this affidavit is made bonafide to declare on oath that names such as “Priya Sharma” and “Hira Devi Sharma” refers and denotes to one and same person i.e. my above named Daughter.
5. That from onwards I relinquish the name of my Daughter as Hira Devi Sharma and adopt her name as “Priya Sharma” for all purpose and purport.
6. That this affidavit is made for necessary correction if her previous records.
7. That this Affidavit is made bonafide.

Bishnu Pd.Sharma  
**DEPONENT.**



# ICRI trains Uttarakhand farmers on large cardamom farming

**SUMMIT REPORT**  
**GANGTOK, 06 FEB:**

A team of 16 farmers accompanied by Deputy Project Director, ATMA, Dept. of Agriculture from Pithoragarh, Uttarakhand visited Indian Cardamom Research Institute, Regional Research Station, Spices Board, Tadong on 04 Feb 2019.

The farmers took classes on organic large cardamom cultivation, nutrient management, selection of cultivar, conservation of pollinators, pest and diseases management, scientific post harvest technology and marketing of large cardamom for the farmers.

The team includes Dy. Project Director, Kamal Kant, ATMA, farmers



Sangay Mahar, Ganesh Singh, Pradeep Singh, Devki Devi and Nirmala Devi etc. from Pithoragarh, Uttarakhand.

The farmers visited ICRI, Pangthang research farm on 05 Feb 2019 and saw the ongoing large cardamom research activities at farm and ICRI modified bhatti. They have shown keen interest to know

about crop management practices under organic system in large cardamom and other spices and also discussed the feasibility of large cardamom cultivation in Pithoragarh.

On 06 Feb, the team visited the ICRI research farm at Kabi and BA Gudade, Incharge Dy. Director (Res.) explained the ongoing activities of

collection, conservation and characterization of germplasm, importance of in-situ soil and water conservation, soil health and organic pest and diseases management of large cardamom in the region.

He also discussed market potential, production and market trends of large cardamom cultivation.

## 1,490 ordered to be kept in detention centres in Assam in 3 yrs; 691 released later

**NEW DELHI, FEB 6 (PTI):** The Foreigners Tribunals in Assam have in the last three years sent 1,490 people in detention centres in the state, out of nearly 8,992 cases they received to determine citizenship, the Rajya Sabha was informed on Wednesday.

Later on, 691 people were released from these detention centres after judicial process.

Union Minister of State for Home Kiren Rijiju said that as per the information made available by the Assam government, 2,764 people were referred to the foreigners tribunals in 2016, 4,223 people in 2017 and 2,005 people in 2018.

These people were referred to the foreign-

ers tribunals to ascertain whether they were Indians or foreigners in terms of the provisions contained in the Foreigners (Tribunal) Order 1964, he said in a written reply to a question.

The foreigners tribunals have decided to send 236 people to the detention centres in 2016, 826 people in 2017 and 428 people in 2018.

Rijiju said among the people who were ordered to be kept in detention centres in last three years, 111 people in 2016 were either released on the basis of the opinion given by the foreigners tribunals or by the higher courts or repatriated to their native country, 453 people in 2017 and 127 people in 2018.

## WSOS announces Rongli edition of Neev fest

**SUMMIT REPORT**  
**GANGTOK, 06 FEB:**

Wandering Souls of Sikkim, a webzine & youth forum, has announced plans to organise the Rongli edition of its Inter School Scholastic Festival, "NEEV: A Foundation for Better Future".

150 students from around 20 schools from across the Rongli Sub Division are expected to participate in eight scholastic competitions including quiz, poetry, elocution, painting etc. during the festival scheduled to be held on 09 February at Rongli Community Centre.

Chujachen MLA Bikram Pradhan and DM East Kapil Meena have consented to join the festival and encourage the students.

The festival is supported by Block Administrative Centre, Regu, and coordinated by Bering Sudunglakha Zilla Panchayat Madhu Sharma.

This festival is in line with the WSOS objective of providing the young from rural Sikkim with a platform to perform. The group has also thanked BDO Regu Sabintra Rai for his support and cooperation.

## Govt 'axes' tenure of two senior CBI officers

**NEW DELHI, FEB 6 (PTI):** The tenures of two senior IPS officers -- Anish Prasad and Abhay Singh -- at the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) have been curtailed, according to a Personnel Ministry order issued Wednesday.

Prasad, a 2003 batch IPS officer of Tripura cadre, was reportedly at the centre of controversy involving the CBI's two former top officers -- ex-chief Alok Kumar Verma and the then Special Director Rakesh Asthana.

Both Verma and Asthana had accused each other of corruption. Verma was removed from the post of CBI Director on January 10.

Prasad, who is at present Deputy Director (Administration) in the central probe agency's headquarters here, had earlier worked in the surveillance unit of the CBI, officials said.

At the time of his tussle with Verma, Asthana had written to Central Vigilance Commission and accused the agency of snooping on his family members, they said.

Singh, a 2002 batch IPS officer of Madhya Pradesh cadre, was posted in Ranchi.

The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet has approved premature repatriation of Prasad and Singh with immediate effect, the order said without citing further details.

Both of them were working at the level of Deputy Inspector General (DIG).

While Prasad has been asked to go back to his cadre state Tripura, the services of Singh has been placed at the disposal of the Union Home Ministry, the order said.

The order came two days after former Madhya Pradesh police chief Rishi Kumar Shukla took

over the reins of controversy-hit CBI.

Shukla was on Saturday appointed as the CBI Director.

The government had in January curtailed the tenure of four CBI officers -- Asthana, Joint Director Arun Kumar Sharma, Deputy Inspector General Manish Kumar Sinha and Superintendent of Police Jayant J Naiknavare.

CBI Joint Director Praveen Sinha, who was looking after the probe in coal scam cases, has been elevated as the Additional Director, the order said.

Sinha is a 1988 batch IPS officer of Gujarat cadre.

Amit Kumar, who was working as Deputy Inspector General in the CBI, has been appointed Joint Director in the CBI.

Kumar, a 1998 batch IPS officer of Chhattisgarh cadre, was working in the agency's policy division.

## France confers its highest civilian honour Legion d'Honneur on 92-year-old priest from Bengal

**HOWRAH, FEB 6 (PTI):** Father Francois Laborde, a 92-year-old priest, was Wednesday conferred the Legion d'Honneur, the highest civilian award of France, in recognition of his work for specially-abled children.

French Ambassador to India, Alexandre Ziegler, said the country was happy to confer the award on Father Laborde who had set up Howrah South Point, an organisation working for the development of specially-abled children, the destitute and the most deprived sections of the society.

"He is working for these specially-abled and destitute children

for 60 years. The way he still works even at this age, he is an inspiration for us," Ziegler said.

Father Laborde said he was dedicating the award to the children for whom he works.

Father Laborde is of French-origin but he has been given Indian citizenship.

He is the third person from the state to have been awarded the Legion of Honor after film maestro Satyajit Ray and actor Soumitra Chatterjee. While Ray was awarded in 1987, his favourite actor got the honour last year.

The French Ambassador also visited an exhibition on the works of Father Laborde, organised on the occasion.

## Ranu Langthasa elected unopposed chief of NC hills council

**HAFLONG (ASSAM), FEB 6 (PTI):** BJP member Ranu Langthasa on Wednesday was elected unopposed as the Chairperson of the 12th North Cachar Hills Autonomous Council, polling for which took place last month.

Langthasa was the Chairperson in the outgoing Council too and is the first woman to hold this position in 2016.

The election for post was held at the Council premises in presence of Dima Hasao Deputy Commissioner

Vikram Dev Sharma.

Langthasa has been winning from Semkhor seat since 2007.

The BJP swept the polls, held on January 19, by winning 19 of the 28 seats in the Council, while the Congress bagged two and the AGP managed one seat. The remaining six seats went to Independent candidates.

Later, the AGP and the Independent candidates joined the BJP, making it the single largest party with 26 seats.

## I stand by my family: Priyanka after dropping off Vadra at ED office



**NEW DELHI, FEB 6 (PTI):** "I stand by my family," said Priyanka Gandhi Vadra at the Congress headquarters where she came to take charge as the party general secretary.

Her remarks came in response to a query about her husband being questioned by the Enforcement Directorate in connection with a money laundering case relating to alleged possession of illegal foreign assets.

Before coming to AICC

headquarters, Priyanka Gandhi dropped off Vadra at the probe agency's office.

Vadra was directed by a Delhi court to cooperate with the investigation being carried out by the central probe agency after he knocked on its door seeking anticipatory bail in this case.

A Delhi court last week granted interim bail to him till February 16 and asked him to join probe by appearing in person on February 6 in this case.

## Missing Delhi shelter home inmates yet to reach their homes: Nepal Embassy

**NEW DELHI, FEB 6 (PTI):** The Nepal Embassy has told the Delhi Police that eight women and a minor who had disappeared from a Shahdara shelter home last year have not returned to their homes, police said Wednesday.

The Delhi Police had sought the assistance of the Nepal Embassy and the NGOs of Nepalese origin in the case.

"The Nepal Embassy reached out to the families of the women and the minor and it was found that they had not reached homes. We are in touch with the NGOs to trace the missing women and the minor," said a senior police officer, privy to the probe.

The officer said the Nepal Embassy sent them a reply around a fortnight ago and are currently relying on NGOs to get a breakthrough in the case.

Eight women and a minor were reported missing from the shelter home in Shahdara in the first week of December. The Delhi Commission For Women had alleged foul play in the incident and the Delhi government suspended two senior officials in the case.

The case was transferred from the district police to the Crime Branch.

The nine inmates were rescued last year in November, along with

four other women, by the Crime Branch from a brothel on GB Road.

After being rescued, they underwent counselling but had expressed a desire to stay in the GB Road area since they were earning a living and were also able to send money back to their families in Nepal.

However, the Child Welfare Committee had sent them to a shelter home in Dwarka, from where four of the rescued women had fled earlier this year, sources said.

The remaining women and the minor were then shifted to the shelter home in Shahdara, they added.

## Nearly 1,100 swine flu cases in Delhi; city govt issues health advisory

**NEW DELHI, FEB 6 (PTI):** As many as 74 fresh cases of swine flu were recorded in Delhi on Wednesday, taking the total number of people affected by the disease in the city this year to 1,093, according to a report of the Directorate General of Health Services.

Amid the mounting cases of the H1N1 infections in the city, the Delhi government Wednesday issued a health advisory, prescribing the do's and don'ts.

As many as 74 fresh cases of H1N1 virus

were recorded in Delhi on Wednesday, taking the total number of people affected by the flu in the city this year to 1,093, according to the report of the city's Directorate General of Health Services.

The cases included 868 adults and 225 children, the report said.


Delhi recorded on Tuesday one death from swine flu and 1,019 positive cases.

Till Monday, the Delhi government had not reported any death due to the flu, but it recorded

one death on Tuesday, the report said,

However, two Centre-run hospitals here have reported 13 deaths due to swine flu this year. According to senior officials at Safdarjung Hospital, three deaths due to swine flu have been recorded this season, while RML Hospital has reported 10 fatalities.

Nine of the 10 people who died at RML Hospital were from Delhi, and the other one was from outside the city, officials said.



**GOVERNMENT OF SIKKIM**  
**SOCIAL JUSTICE, EMPOWERMENT**  
**& WELFARE DEPARTMENT**  
**(WOMEN & CHILD DEVELOPMENT DIVISION)**  
**GANGTOK, SIKKIM**  
Ref No: 429/SJE&WD/W&CDD/ICDS/18-19    Dated the: 04/01/2019

**CORRIGENDUM**

The date mentioned in the employment notice may be read as 31/01/2019 instead of 31/12/2019.

Sd-  
Mission Director, ICDS  
Social Justice, Empowerment  
& Welfare Department.

**R.O. No. 663/IPR/Pub/Classi./18-19 Date: 06.02.19**



**GOVERNMENT OF SIKKIM**  
**SIKKIM STATE TEACHERS' RECRUITMENT BOARD**  
**UPPER SYARI, GANGTOK**

Ref. No.20/ SSTRB/19

Dated: 06/02/2019

### NOTICE

On the basis of the Written Examination, Classroom demonstration and Viva-voce the following candidates bearing roll nos. in order of merit are declared selected and recommended for the appointment to the post of **Post Graduate Teacher (Language)** under Human Resource Development Department.

BHUTIA LANGUAGE			LIMBOO LANGUAGE		
Sl. No.	ROLL NO.	Name Of Candidates	Sl. No.	ROLL NO.	Name Of Candidates
1	20210039	Tshering Norbu Bhutia	1	20210291	Tej Raj Limboo
2	20210043	Jigme Wangchuk Bhutia	2	20210278	Kausila Subba
3	20210092	Palmu Bhutia	3	20210304	Sanjoti Subba
4	20210107	Karma Tashi Bhutia	4	20210287	Madhu Limboo
5	20210017	Rinzing Chopel Bhutia	5	20210272	Bal Hang Limboo
6	20210027	Sonam Wangyal Bhutia	6	20210242	Lahang Subba
7	20210090	Tenzing Youden Lepcha	7	20210282	Manjil Subba
8	20210026	Sangay Tshering Bhutia	8	20210290	Prithi Subba
9	20210112	Jumthy Bhutia	9	20210285	Ashit Subba
10	20210051	Gyurme Sangay Bhutia	10	20210236	Koncho Hang Limboo
11	20210048	Tashi Lhamu Bhutia	11	20210270	Mohan Bikram Subba
12	20210068	Sonam Tharchin Bhutia	12	20210293	Najum Hangma Limboo
13	20210095	Pempa Lhamu Bhutia	13	20210309	Mohan Subba
14	20210096	Pema Ongyal Bhutia	14	20210276	Lall Man Limboo
			15	20210297	Mona Hang Limboo
			16	20210313	Sam Phungma Limboo

LEPCHA LANGUAGE		
Sl.No.	ROLL NO.	Name Of Candidates
1	20210186	Phurkit Lepcha
2	20210168	Tomtuk Lepcha
3	20210198	Dupden Lepcha
4	20210226	Ongmit Lepcha
5	20210195	Tenzing Dolma Lepcha
6	20210199	Laki Lepcha
7	20210218	Nimsay Lepcha
8	20210181	Kyondit Lepcha
9	20210201	Mingmakit Lepcha
10	20210156	Lakden Lepcha
11	20210145	Kessong Choden Lepcha
12	20210185	Kachyo Lepcha
13	20210212	Den Mit Lepcha
14	20210180	Dikit Lhamu Lepcha
15	20210176	Denzong Lepcha
16	20210227	Nimkit Lepcha
17	20210191	Ongmu Lepcha
18	20210154	Chulthim Dorjee Lepcha
19	20210147	Nimphutit Lepcha

Sd/-

Controller of Examinations,  
Sikkim State Teachers Recruitment Board

**R.O. No. 664/IPR/Pub/Clasi./18-19    Date: 06.02.2019**



# SummitTIMES

ON TOP OF THE NEWS

## Nothing will be “given”, it will have to be “won”

*We speak of teenage smoking here*

Anyone who follows the news would know that today, 07 February 2019, marks the centenary-plus one of that moment in history when women in England were given the right to vote. A correction is perhaps required here – a hundred and one years ago today, women won the right to vote in England.

A British Parliamentary recently underlined that the movement for the right to vote was so viciously challenged by men in the late 19th and early 20th Century that to do justice to the memory and significance of the Suffragette movement, it is important to define the moment as one when women “won” the right to vote as against the more often used term “were given” or “received”.

Women in England won the right to adult suffrage on 07 Feb a hundred and one years ago, so what is the big deal one may ask? Well, for one, it is a big deal because a century on, and even in 2019 we are still some distance away from equality even in something as basic as equal pay for equal work. The obnoxiously regressive, but extensively widespread, disturbingly stereotyped and immensively internalized, gender roles compound the problem and continue manifesting patriarchy despite its destructive track-record. But, like always, we digress.

A quick Google-search will reveal that limited voting rights were gained by women in Finland, Iceland, Sweden and some Australian colonies and some states of USA in the late 19th century. Much like the prevailing mindsets, even a century ago, men were convinced that they knew better and could decide what was best for women and that women were somehow not be trusted with serious decision-making. Understandably, the women disagreed even as many among them had also internalized the manufactured stereotypes and subscribed to what the male-dominated governments and lobbies proclaimed. But there were still women were galvanizing into action and in 1904 former the International Woman Suffrage Alliance to campaign for voting rights at par with men and for equal civil rights for women. Here, one may add, that even countries which had extended women the right to vote laid more conditions on them than on men – while men could vote at 21, for women it was only they were 30-31 years old and in many instances, while they could vote for state-level elections, they could not for national elections. In most cases, they also had to own property to be able to become electors, a condition not required of men. This segregation reinforced the misogyny that a section of women had serious issues with and one of the more dramatic protests was seen in Britain starting 1903 when activists of the Women's Social and Political Union, led by Emmeline Pankhurst, began advocating for the extension of the “franchise” to women. They were the Suffragettes. The movement had a radical slant and the women damaged property during their marches and sat on hunger strikes. The State responded even more viciously with violent crackdowns which included baton charges and even rape. The movement was bitter and long and was suspended in 1914 due to the outbreak of World War I. Eventually, in 1918 women in Britain over the age of 30, meeting certain property qualifications, were given the right to vote. There were no such criteria for men. The Suffragettes persisted, writing representations, lobbying support and campaigning hard and in 1928 suffrage was extended to all women over the age of 21 in England.

This was a major breakthrough because it demolished several prejudices and stereotypes even as it reinforced the fact that women will have to fight for equality – it is not going to “given” to them. And they will have to fight hard because they are up against generations of wrong grooming and centuries of privilege that men have enjoyed as a result. They will not relinquish things easily. The #MeToo campaign in USA is one such example. Even in the world of artists and performers, people one expects to have more empathy, sexual abuse and harassment was commonplace and would have continued as normal had some brave women not called out their pigs. Now, mighty heads have rolled. That said, USA is also the country with a President who has been accused, officially, of sexual assault by nine women, but he is still maintained in office by a mix of pliant and rabid core. So we should probably look at our own country, right? But clearly not for inspiration. There is a lot that needs to be corrected here... at every level. And Sikkim? There is a lot that it needs to deliver on ensuring genuine equality. And for all of this, the women will have to militate, step out, demand and wrest their rights for themselves. The Suffragettes established as much a 101 years ago, and because the struggle continues, fight on...

# What actually is populism? And why does it have a bad reputation?

OCTAVIA BRYANT & BENJAMIN MOFFITT  
*theconversation.com*

No doubt thanks to Donald Trump, Brexit, and a string of anti-establishment leaders and parties in Europe, Latin America and Asia, everyone seems to be talking about populism.

But populism is nothing new. It's long accompanied democratic politics, and its activity and success has experienced peaks and troughs. Right now we're in a bit of a heyday for populism, and this is impacting the nature of politics in general. So it's important we know what it means and how to recognise it.

Even among academics, populism has been difficult to define. This is partly because it has manifested in different ways during different times. While currently its most well-known cases are right-wing parties, leaders and movements, it can also be left-wing.

There's academic debate on how to categorise the concept: is it an ideology, a style, a discourse, or a strategy? But across these debates, researchers tend to agree populism has two core principles:

- it must claim to speak on behalf of ordinary people
- these ordinary people must stand in opposition to an elite establishment which stops them from fulfilling their political preferences.

These two core principles are combined in different ways with different populist parties, leaders and movements. For example, left-wing populists' conceptions of “the people” and “the elite” generally coalesce around socioeconomic grievances, whereas right-wing populists' conceptions of those groups generally tend to focus on socio-cultural issues such as immigration.

The ambiguity of the terms “the people” and “the elite” mean the core principles of people-centrism and anti-elitism can be used for very different ends.

### HOW CAN APPEALING TO ORDINARY PEOPLE BE A BAD THING?

Populism gets a bad name for a couple of reasons. First, because many of the most prominent cases of populism have recently appeared on the radical right, it has often been conflated with authoritarianism and anti-immigration ideas. But these features are more to do with the ideology of the radical right than they are to do with populism itself.

Second, populists are disruptive. They position themselves as outsiders who are radically different and separate from the existing order. So they

frequently advocate for a change to the status quo and may champion the need for urgent structural change, whether that is economic or cultural. They often do this by promoting a sense of crisis (whether true or not), and presenting themselves as having the solution to the crisis.

A current example of this process is Trump's southern border wall, where he's characterised the issue of illegal crossings on the southern border as a national emergency, despite, for example, more terrorist-related border crossings occurring on the northern, Canadian border and by air.

The fact populists often want to transform the sta-



tus quo, ostensibly in the name of the people, means they can appear threatening to the democratic norms and societal customs many people value.

And the very construction of “the people” plays a large part in populists being perceived as “bad”, because it ostracises portions of society that don't fit in with this group.

### WHAT ARE SOME EXAMPLES OF POPULIST LEADERS AND POLICIES?

The most famous contemporary example of a populist leader is the president of the United States, Donald Trump, and the renewed interest in populism is partly due to his 2016 electoral success. One way researchers measure populism, and consequently determine whether a leader or party is populist, is through measuring language.

Research has found Trump's rhetoric during the campaign was highly populist. He targeted political elites, drawing on the core populist feature of anti-elitism and frequently used people-centric language, with a strong use of collective pronouns of “our” and “we”.

He combined this populist language with his radical right ideology, putting forward policies such as “America First” foreign policy, his proposed wall between the US and Mexico, and protectionist and anti-globalisation economic policies.

The combination of populism and such policies allowed him to draw a distinction between “the people” and those outside that group (Muslims, Mexicans), emphasising the superiority of the former.

These policies also allow for the critiquing of the elite establishment's preference for globalisation, free trade and more liberal immigration policies. His use of the “drain the swamp” slogan - where he's claiming he'll rid Washington of elites who are out of touch with regular Americans - also reflects this.

Along with Trump, Brexit has also come to exemplify contemporary populism, because of its European Union-centred anti-elitism and the very nature of the referendum acting as an expression of “the people's” will.

In South America, populism has been most associated with the left. The late Hugo Chavez, former president of Venezuela, was also highly populist in his rhetoric, and is perhaps the most famous example of a left-wing populist leader.

Chavez's populism was centred around socioeconomic is-

issues. Even while governing, he positioned himself as an anti-establishment politician, channelling the country's oil revenues into social programs with the aim of distributing wealth among the Venezuelan people, relieving poverty and promoting food security.

The current Mexican president, Andrés Manuel López Obrador, and the Bolivian president, Evo Morales are also considered left-wing populist leaders.

But left-wing populism is not just confined to South America. In Europe, contemporary examples of left-wing populist parties include the Spanish Podemos and the Greek Syriza. These parties enjoyed success in the aftermath of the Great Recession. They questioned the legitimacy of unregulated capitalism and advocated structural economic changes to alleviate the consequences of the recession on their people.

It doesn't look like populism is going anywhere. So it's important to know how to recognise it, and to understand how its presence can shape our democracies, for better or worse.

*[Octavia Bryant is Doctoral Candidate, National School of Arts, Australian Catholic University; Benjamin Moffitt is Senior Lecturer & ARC DECRA Fellow, Australian Catholic University]*

# Health Check: do we really need to take 10,000 steps a day?

CORNEEL VANDELANOTTE, KERRY MUMMERY, MITCH DUNCAN & WENDY BROWN  
*theconversation.com*

Regular walking produces many health benefits, including reducing our risk of heart disease, type 2 diabetes and depression.

Best of all, it's free, we can do it anywhere and, for most of us, it's relatively easy to fit into our daily routines.

We often hear 10,000 as the golden number of steps to strive for in a day. But do we really need to take 10,000 steps a day?

Not necessarily. This figure was originally popularised as part of a marketing campaign, and has been subject to some criticism. But if it gets you walking more, it might be a good goal to work towards.

### WHERE DID 10,000 COME FROM?

The 10,000 steps concept was initially formulated in Japan in the lead-up to the 1964 Tokyo Olympics. There was no real evidence to support this target. Rather, it was a marketing strategy to sell step counters.

There was very little interest in the idea until the turn of the century, when the concept was revisited by Australian health promotion researchers in 2001 to encourage people to be more active.

Based on accumulated evidence, many physical activity guidelines around the world – including the Australian guidelines – recommend a minimum of 150 minutes of moderate intensity physical activity a week. This equates to 30 minutes on most days. A half hour of activity corresponds to about 3,000 to 4,000 de-

icated steps at a moderate pace.

In Australia, the average adult accumulates about 7,400 steps a day. So an additional 3,000 to 4,000 steps through dedicated walking will get you to the 10,000 steps target.

### ONE SIZE DOESN'T FIT ALL

Of course, some people accumulate a lot fewer steps per day – for example, older people, those with a

taking more steps.

Nonetheless, most studies do find taking more steps is associated with better health outcomes.

Several studies have shown improved health outcomes even in participants who take less than 10,000 steps. An Australian study, for example, found people who took more than 5,000 steps a day had a

increase per day reduced the risk of dying prematurely of any cause by 6%, with those taking 10,000 or more steps having a 46% lower risk of early death.

Another Australian study from 2017 showed people with increasingly higher step counts spent less time in hospital.

So the bottom line is the more steps, the better.

### STEP IT UP

It's important to recognise that no public health guideline is entirely appropriate for every person; public health messages are aimed at the population at large.

That being said, we shouldn't underestimate the power of a simple public health message: 10,000 steps is an easily remembered goal and you can readily measure and assess your progress. You can use an ac-

tivity tracker, or follow your progress through a program such as 10,000 Steps Australia.

Increasing your activity levels, through increasing your daily step count, is worthwhile; even if 10,000 steps is not the right goal for you. The most important thing is being as active as you can. Striving for 10,000 steps is just one way of doing this.

*[Corneel Vandelanotte is Professorial Research Fellow: Physical Activity and Health, CQUniversity Australia; Kerry Mummery is Dean, Faculty of Kinesiology, Sport and Recreation, University of Alberta; Mitch Duncan is University of Newcastle; Wendy Brown is Professor of Human Movement Studies, The University of Queensland]*





# Assam budget proposes 1 tola gold ro brides, rice at Re 1 a kg

**GUWAHATI, FEB 6 (PTI):** Assam Finance Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma on Wednesday presented a Rs 1,193 crore deficit budget for 2019-20 with no fresh taxes and introducing new schemes like providing rice to poor at Re 1 a kg and gold for brides.

The budget also proposed to provide financial assistance to students, including girls from the minority community.

With an opening balance of minus Rs 1,799.84 crore, the budget proposed to have transactions of Rs 606.80 crore during 2019-20, Sarma told the House.

Sarma said that for special category states like Assam, companies with turnover of Rs 10 lakh are required to register for Goods and Services Tax (GST). However, to give succour to small businesses and considering the small base, the government has raised the GST three-



hold limit to Rs 20 lakh following approval of the GST Council effective February 1, 2019.

Sarma further proposed to raise the threshold limit for registration under GST for suppliers of goods to Rs 40 lakh. However, the limit stays at Rs 20 lakh for supplier of services.

He said that under the National Food Security Act (NFSA), the Centre

provides rice at Rs 3 per kg to 57 lakh households in Assam covering a total population of 2.46 crore.

“To further strengthen food security for our people, we will provide rice at a further subsidized rate of Re 1 per kg instead of the present Rs 3 per kg and the move will benefit 53 Lakh households,” Sarma said.

The government has

also proposed to give 1 tola of gold (11.66 grams) to brides’ parents of belonging to the economically weaker sections of the society.

“We shall give one tola gold costing around Rs 38,000 as on today to brides belonging to all such communities of our state where it is customary to provide gold at the time of wedding” under the Arundhati scheme.

## Taliban sit for second day with Afghan leaders in Moscow

**MOSCOW, FEB 6 (AFP):** The Taliban entered a second day of unprecedented talks Wednesday with powerful Afghan politicians in Moscow, sidestepping the Kabul government as it pursues a leading stake in the war-torn country.

The rare public appearance that kicked off a day before saw Taliban officials spell out their vision for Afghanistan in front of rolling cameras and a host of political heavyweights, including former president Hamid Karzai.

The insurgents went around President Ashraf Ghani and sat down with his chief rivals for an extraordinary meeting that saw Karzai and other sworn enemies of the Taliban praying with the militants.

No government official was invited, despite Ghani’s offers to talk peace, underscoring the Taliban’s hostility toward the increasingly marginalised Kabul administration. The Moscow meet comes a week after the Taliban held separate talks toward ending 17 years of fighting with American negotiators in Doha, where Ghani was again not invited to the table. President Donald Trump on Tuesday described those talks as “constructive” and voiced cautious hope for a negotiated end to America’s longest war.

The Taliban claimed Wednesday that the United States agreed in Doha to withdraw half its ground troops by the end of April – and the process had begun. “The Americans agreed to withdraw half of their troops immediately. The withdrawal will start from February 1 and continue until end of April,” Abdul Salam Hanefi, deputy head of the Taliban’s political office in Doha, told reporters in Moscow.

But US negotiator Zalmay Khalilzad has repeatedly stressed that “nothing is agreed until everything is agreed.

## In counter rally, TMC alleges BJP trying to create constitutional crisis

**THAKURNAGAR (WB), FEB 6 (PTI):** The ruling Trinamool Congress (TMC) Wednesday organised a rally at Thakurnagar where Prime Minister Narendra Modi addressed a public meeting last week, and senior party leaders accused the BJP of trying to create “constitutional crisis” in West Bengal.

The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) is following the orders of the Bharatiya Janata Party and has become the “BJP Bureau of Investigation” that has singled out opposition leaders, Kolkata Mayor and TMC leader Firhad Hakim alleged at the rally in Thakurnagar in North 24 Parganas district.

Thakurnagar is known as the hub of Matua community.

The Matuas, originally hailing from East Pakistan (now Bangladesh), started migrating to West Bengal in the 1950s, mostly due to religious persecution there.

The community, with an estimated population of three million in the state, exhorts influence in at least five Lok Sabha seats in North and South 24 Parganas districts.

At his rally here on Saturday, Modi had made a strong pitch for the Citizenship (Amendment) Bill, insisting that it would bring justice and respectability to those who faced religious persecution.

Hakim alleged that BJP leaders remembered the Matuas just ahead of elections.

“What have you (BJP) been doing for the past four-and-a-half years? You have come here just for the sake of votes.

But I can assure you that you will return empty handed from here,” the senior TMC leader said.

“The central government led by the BJP is trying to create a constitutional crisis in West Bengal. We will never let that happen. The people of this state will not give a single seat to the BJP in Lok Sabha elections,” Hakim said.

“The CBI has become very active against the TMC and other opposition leaders but is mum on BJP leaders who are also accused in chit fund cases. The CBI has turned into a “BJP Bureau of Investigation,” he said.

West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Baner-

jee was on a sit-in protest for three days against the CBI’s attempt to question the Kolkata Police Commissioner Rajeev Kumar in connection with chit fund scams.

She called off her dharna Tuesday evening after the Supreme Court forbade the CBI from taking any coercive action against Kumar, but vowed to wage a battle against the Narendra Modi government till it was ousted from power.

The TMC leadership has also filed an FIR against the BJP and the BJP-aligned faction of All India Matua Mahasangha for felling trees to make space for landing of Modi’s chopper at Thakurnagar on February 2.

“Felling trees is a crime under environmental laws. We have also forwarded a copy of the FIR to the state forest department for necessary action,” senior minister and TMC leader Jyotipriyo Mullick said.

Mullick, who is a member of the TMC’s core committee, said the party will also organise a rally at Maynaguri in north Bengal after Modi’s scheduled meeting there on Friday.

## New programme launched to ease traffic congestion in Aizwal



**AIZAWL, FEB 6 (PTI):** Mizoram Chief Minister Zoramthanga Wednesday launched a programme to ease vehicular traffic congestion in the state capital Aizawl city, by involving people having land for parking vehicles.

The state government has allocated Rs 10 crore for the programme, the Parking House Support Scheme, for construction of parking lots to accommodate 1,000 cars.

Under the scheme, any indi-

vidual who has a land for parking at least five Light Motor Vehicles (LMV) would be given an assistance at the rate of Rs 1 lakh per one vehicle parking space.

Rs 100 crore more would be allotted during 2019-20, the chief minister said.

The chief minister said the scheme was launched because of the perpetual traffic jams caused by parking of vehicles on the road sides.



### ROADS & BRIDGES DEPARTMENT GOVERNMENT OF SIKKIM SINGTAM

Memo No:- 243/AES/R&B

Date:-02/02/2019

#### NOTICE INVITING TENDER

For and on behalf of the Governor of Sikkim, Assistant Engineer-Singtam, Roads & Bridges Department Government of Sikkim, invites sealed tenders under single bid system from the eligible contractors of Class IV Grade enlisted with Sikkim Public Works Department vide Notification No: 515/R&B/PWD/Secy, dated 12.06.2018 and notification No. 556/R&B/PWD/Secy. dated: 28.08.2018 for the construction of fair weather roads, through competitive bidding within the territorial jurisdiction of the Concerned Ward of the Gram Panchayat Unit of Singtam-Khamdong Constituency where the work is to be executed.

The details of works and time schedule are as under:

Sl. No.	Name of Work	Cost of Work put to tender (in Rs)	Earnest Money @ 2.50% (in Rs)	Cost of Tender documents (in Rs)	Completion Time
1	Const. of fair weather road from Singtam Dikchu road to Ralap dumping site to Linkhu gaon in East Sikkim.(Additional)				
	Km 1st	Rs. 4238496.00	Rs.1,05,970.00	Rs. 1500.00	09 months
2	Const. of fair weather road from Dochum PWD road to Namgeythan in East Sikkim.(Additional)				
	Km 1st.	Rs. 2119248.00	Rs.52981.00	Rs. 1500.00	09 months
3	Const. of fair weather road from PMGSY road Lower Beng to Sang Khamdong road Phatak Bhirkuna in East Sikkim.				
	Km 1st	Rs. 4238496.00	Rs.1,05,970.00	Rs. 1500.00	09 months
	Km 2nd.	Rs. 4238496.00	Rs.1,05,970.00	Rs. 1500.00	09 months
	Km 3rd.	Rs. 4238496.00	Rs.1,05,970.00	Rs. 1,500.00	09 months
	Km 4th.	Rs. 4238496.00	Rs.1,05,970.00	Rs. 1500.00	09 months
	Km 5th.	Rs. 4238496.00	Rs.1,05,970.00	Rs. 1,500.00	09 months
	Km 6th.	Rs. 1695398.00	Rs.42385.00	Rs. 500.00	09 months
4	Const. of fair weather road from Ghattey Khola to NHP, RR colony from Singtam Dikchu road in East Sikkim.				
	Km 1st	Rs. 4238496.00	Rs.1,05,970.00	Rs. 1500.00	09 months
	Km 2nd.	Rs. 4238496.00	Rs.1,05,970.00	Rs. 1500.00	09 months
	Km 3rd.	Rs. 2119248.00	Rs.52981.00	Rs. 1500.00	09 months
5	Const. of fair weather road from Singtam Dikchu road near Panchayat Office to Shivakoti gaon, Rangtu in East Sikkim.(Additional)				
	Km 1st.	Rs. 2119248.00	Rs.52981.00	Rs. 1500.00	09 months
6	Const. of fair weather road from Dochung School to Lamichaneygaon via Mangergaon in East Sikkim.				
	Km 1st	Rs. 4238496.00	Rs.1,05,970.00	Rs. 1500.00	09 months
	Km 2nd.	Rs. 4238496.00	Rs.1,05,970.00	Rs. 1500.00	09 months
	Km 3rd.	Rs. 2119248.00	Rs.52981.00	Rs. 1500.00	09 months
7	Const. of fair weather road from Sakyong Beng road to Dipudara Sang road (Sang School) in East Sikkim.				
	Km 1st	Rs. 4238496.00	Rs.1,05,970.00	Rs. 1500.00	09 months
	Km 2nd.	Rs. 2119248.00	Rs.52981.00	Rs. 1500.00	09 months

#### TIME SCHEDULE:-

1	Date of submission of application with Bank receipt & TDR for issue of Tender Documents .	18th February, 2019 (10.00am to 4.00pm) at resepctive Gram Prashashan Kendra where work is to be executed.
2	Last Date and Time for submission of Tender:	19th. February, 2019 (10.00am to 1.00pm) at resepctive Gram Prashashan Kendra where work is to be executed.
3	Date and Time for Opening of Tender:	19th. February, 2019 (1:30 PM) at resepctive Gram Prashashan Kendra where work is to be executed.

#### CONDITIONS OF CONTRACT:

- Tender is open only to the eligible Contractors/Firms of appropriate Class/Area.
- The intending tenders/contractors should apply in writing for issue of tender documents. The application would be invariably be signed by the contractor himself/herself. The tender documents will not be issued to any person other than the INTENDING TENDER. The application shall be submitted initially for each works listed above with all required documents.
- The application should enclosed attested copies of the a) Goods & Services Tax Clearance Certificate (b) Validated/Updated Contractor Enlistment Certificate along the application. It is mandatory to produce the original validated/Updated Enlistment Certificate during sale/Issue of the Tender Documents for verification.
- The prescribed Non-Transferable Tender Documents (excluding the Tender Form) can be obtain during the period specified in (As above) from the office of the Assistant Engineer-Singtam, Roads & Bridges Department, Singtam on production of requisite Bank Receipt of the State Bank of Sikkim towards the cost of Tender Documents (Non-Refundable) under the Head “0059-80-800” cost of Tender Form (Roads & Bridges).
- Earnest money deposit @ 2.50% in the State Bank of Sikkim shall be in the form of Deposit Receipt of Schedule Bank which includes deposits in the form of Temporary Deposit Receipt (TDR) in favour of the Accounts Officer, Roads & Bridges Department, Nirman-Bhawan, Gangtok. Tender Form shall be issued only on production of toward deposit receipts of 2.50% earnest money.
- The Tender documents, including the Tender Form with quoted offer should be placed in a sealed cover with the name of the tenderers and the name of work superscripted on it, supporting documents listed at Sl. No: (a)&(b) above should be enclosed with the offer.
- Sealed Tenders may be deposited in the Tender Box in the office of the Assistant Engineer-Singtam, Roads & Bridges Department, Singtam, on the date and within the time indicated above.
- Tenders shall be opened by a Tender Opening Committee as prescribed by the Government in the presence of the tenderers on the date and time indicated above.
- The Tenderer should sign on every page of the tender documents as Acceptance of the General Direction and Conditions of the contract and other laid down norms. The rate quoted should be both in figures and words and should be inclusive of GST and all other Taxes and Levies. Over writing and corrections should be avoided and if made should be authenticated. Incomplete/Conditional tenders shall be rejected forthwith.
- In case of any discrepancy in rate(s) printed in the schedule of Rates and Quantities issued with the tender documents, rates as per approved Schedule of Rates will be taken as correct. For items outside the Schedule of Rates (SOR), the rates shall be as per the technically checked estimate/analysis. Decision of the PCE-cum-Secretary/Head of the Department will be final in the regard.
- The work value, scope and quantum of the work are subjected to change; the contractor shall execute the work as per the directives of the Department. No claim on this account is entertained whatsoever. If any claim is made, it shall be as per the agreement rates.
- The Department reserves the rights to hold payments to the contractor unless test certificates are not produced by the contractor when called upon to do so.
- Avoidable damages due to negligence of the contractor shall be at his/her own risk and cost. The Department shall not be liable for payment of such damages (if any), including accidents to labour at site.
- The offer shall remain valid for a period of 90 (Ninety) days. The work should commence within 15 (fifteen) days from the issue of Work Order.
- All the conditions as mentioned in the NIT shall be deemed to a part of the agreement to be entered with the contractor. Security deposit shall be collected by deductions from the running bills of the contractor @ 5.00% of the value of work done.
- The Department reserves the right to accept or reject any or all tenders without assigning any reason thereof.
- The recoveries of Royalties on Forest Produce shall be as per rates notified by the Government from time to time and applicable on the date of payment. In no case, claim of any contractor for deduction as per rates incorporated in Analysis of Rates or Schedule of Rates on the date of tender shall be acceptable.
- Subletting of contract work is against the norms and it comes to the notice, the original contract shall be cancelled and appropriate action shall be initiated as per the rules.
- The Department also reserves the right to increase, decrease, alter or modify the item of works as indicated in the NIT without assigning any reason thereof.
- In case the man power employed by the contractors are from outside the State or neighboring countries, it shall be the responsibility of the contractors to get them registered with the Labour Department, Government of Sikkim as per the relevant Labour Laws.
- Use of explosive shall be regulated as under:
  - Transportation, Handling, storage and use of Explosives (if necessary) shall be in accordance with the provision of the India Explosive Act and General Guidelines, Circulars issued by the department and other competent authorities on the subject from time to time.
  - The rules and regulations issued by the Sikkim Public Works Department or any other competent authority shall strictly be adhered to with regard to transportation, storage; handling and use of explosives shall be maintained by the contractor.
- The contractor shall also make arrangement to have photographs of the works taken at least at three stages of the construction period i.e. beginning, middle and completion stages.
- Damage of properties in and around the work site must be avoided at all cost. The contractor shall be held responsible for any acts of negligence and shall be made to make good the damages.
- It is accepted to the tenderer to have inspected the site before submitting his/her bid. There may be possible site difficulties for which the tenderer should have their own correct assessment before submitting the bid.
- The cost of Stock materials supplied from the Departmental store will be deducted from the contractor’s bills as per rules.
- The bidders shall produce a Certificate of Residence from the concerned Gram Panchayat Unit where the work is to be executed.

Sd/-

**ASSISTANT ENGINEER**  
SINGTAM SUB DIVISION  
ROADS & BRIDGES DEPARTMENT

**R.O. No. 651/IPR/Pub/Classi./18-19**  
**Date: 06.02.2019**



# SilenceechoesacrossPyeongchangOlympicvenues

**PYEONGCHANG, FEB 6 (AFP):** Just one year after the world's best skiers and skaters gathered in South Korea to compete for Olympic gold, many of the venues stand empty, with arguments mounting over their future and upkeep costs.

The country built six sports centres and a ceremonial stadium from scratch for the 2018 Winter Olympics and renovated six existing facilities at a total cost of 800 million.

But today only the occasional elderly stroller passes through the Olympic park in Gangneung, where the cavernous speed-skating arena stands dark and ice-less.

The sliding centre in Pyeongchang, where South Korea's Yun Sungbin won Asia's first Olympic skeleton gold, is locked with barriers blocking road access.

And protesters are demanding that a downhill ski slope site be developed into a resort and not, as promised, returned to nature.

South Korea also spent more than 10 bil-

lion on infrastructure before the Games, including a high-speed railway from Seoul to Gangneung, 200 kilometres (120 miles) east of the capital. The construction bonanza was supposed to boost one of the poorest and least populated regions of Asia's fourth-largest economy.

But hopes of a tourism boom have gone unfulfilled in a nation where bobsleigh and luge were largely unheard-of before the Olympics and participation in winter sports remains limited.

The risk of white elephants is a perennial issue for the Winter Games and the International Olympic Committee has struggled to find contenders willing to take on the burden.

There were only two candidates in the final round for the 2022 Games that ultimately went to Beijing, and after a series of withdrawals only two are bidding for 2026, Milan and Stockholm.

**- FOREST SLUMP -**

When South Korea won last year's Games, Mount Gariwang in



Jeongseon was one of the few summits big enough to provide the 800-metre (2,600-foot) vertical drop required for a downhill skiing venue under International Ski Federation rules.

There was one problem: it is in a forest conservation area.

Organisers secured a temporary opt-out from the forestry ministry

-- enraging green campaigners -- with a promise to restore the site to woodland after the event.

But its future is in dispute as residents of Jeongseon, a former coal town whose last mine closed in 2004, demand that authorities go back on their word and keep the 170-million facilities as a tourist attraction.

According to Choi

Moon-soon, governor of eastern Gangwon province, reforestation would cost as much as building the slopes in the first place. "I had expected the Olympic legacy would attract many visitors here and stimulate our local economy, which is stagnant," said local businessman Kim Changyoung, 52, who regularly joins the protests. He

feels "betrayed" since the Games, he told AFP, with "hardly any visitors" coming to Jeongseon.

A hotel that opened there last year was offering rooms in January at an 83 percent discount.

And the area's biggest resort Yongpyong, where slalom events were held, has seen fewer visitors this December and January than two years ago.

**- FROZEN IN TIME -**

Visitors have been banned from the 100-million Pyeongchang Olympic Sliding Centre since March after Gangwon authorities mothballed it to avoid estimated maintenance costs of 1.25 billion won ( 1.1 million) a year.

It is the only facility of its kind in the country, forcing South Korea's bobsleigh and skeleton national teams to train in Canada instead.

The Gangneung Oval, where the speed skating was held, is also unattended with no scheme identified for its future.

As planned, the pentagonal arena that hosted the opening and closing ceremonies has been dismantled, with an Olympic museum due to open in the main stand.

Some venues are in occasional use: the Gangneung Hockey Centre hosted a three-day national ice hockey tournament in December after lying idle for eight months, and it is holding two international competitions this week.

But with no professional ice hockey league

in South Korea, it is unclear how often the 95-million centre will welcome spectators.

Meanwhile, the Gangneung Ice Arena, which hosted the figure skating and short-track speed skating, has been used for concerts -- but only twice.

A study by the government's Korea Development Institute on the sliding centre, the Oval and the hockey centre is due to report in June, a sports ministry official told AFP, including on upkeep costs and who should pay them.

Ordinary South Koreans have been left bewildered by the lack of progress.

"The government should have had a long-term plan to use the Olympic venues," said Han Hyung-seob, 37, a startup founder who took his family on a visit to Pyeongchang.

"After they invested a large amount of money, abandoning these facilities because it costs too much to maintain is beyond understanding as a South Korean.

## Extras top score as Australian side all out for 10

**SYDNEY, FEB 6 (AFP):** It's not a good look when the extras are the top score, but that's what happened to an Australian women's side who were all out for 10 on Wednesday.

It took six extras for South Australia to reach double figures at the National Indigenous Cricket Championship in Alice Springs.

Opener Febi Mansell scored the only runs off the bat with four followed by 10 ducks against New South Wales.

Roxsanne Van-Veen returned the unbelievable figures of five wickets for one run off two overs. Naomi Woods took two wickets with the only two balls she bowled.

The innings was over in just 62 deliveries and NSW only needed 15 balls to knock off their target in the scheduled Twenty20 match.

## Online library stall a hit in Kolkata Book Fair

**KOLKATA, FEB 6 (PTI):** People of all ages in large numbers are thronging the stall of an online library in the 43rd International Kolkata Fair to download books of their choice for free. The National Digital Library of India (NDLI) stall enables visitors to log in via computers or install its app on smartphones and read the free contents.

"If you go to any other stall, you might be buying one or two books according to your budget. The best part of our stall is that you can walk in without a paisa in your pocket and take home as many books as you want at the click of a button," Bibhas Samanta from Team NDLI said at the stall.

A visitor can access 1.5 crore contents hosted by the NDLI in over 300 languages in various formats - text, audio and video. "Download any number of your favourite books for free, using QR codes," one of those manning the stall at the book fair said Tuesday.

## ISL: NorthEast look to avoid hiccups against Delhi

**GUWAHATI, FEB 6 (PTI):** NorthEast United FC will look to avoid any hiccups and strengthen their position in the top four when they host an unpredictable Delhi Dynamos FC in a Hero Indian Super League fixture here Thursday.

The Highlanders currently occupy the last play-off spot, having tallied 23 points from 14 games.

With just four more games left to be played and Jamshedpur FC and ATK breathing down their neck, NorthEast United need to make the most of their home games.

Elco Schattorie's side have won just two of the seven matches they have played at home. Dropping points at this juncture could potentially endanger their bid to reach the ISL play-offs for the first time.

"It is difficult for them (Delhi) to qualify. They can play without any pressure. It is always a completely different mindset if you have to deliver something.



"We are in a position where we need to win and they are in a position where they will try to get a result. If you can score quickly against such a team, you can break them down because of less motivation," Schattorie said.

Schattorie will be aware that Delhi held FC Goa to a goalless draw in their last clash and will be out to play spoilsport, again.

The Dutchman will also be concerned with

his own team's results, picking up only one win in their last five matches.

NorthEast had preferred a 4-2-3-1 formation with star striker Bartholomew Ogbeche leading the lines initially.

But Schattorie has experimented with a 4-4-2 as well. However, he is expected to revert to the shape that brought the Highlanders results.

Delhi Dynamos, on the other hand, finally seem to have some wind in their sails. They have

picked up seven points from a possible nine in their last three matches.

However, a disastrous initial half of the season has all but put paid to their play-off hopes. The Dynamos, however, will be confident of showing everyone that they can give any team a run for their reputation.

"If we win our remaining matches, the team will be more motivated. We know maybe we won't qualify for the play-offs but if we win

the next games, we will get confidence.

"In our home match, we lost to NorthEast United 2-0. Now if we win tomorrow in the away game the team will get great confidence," said assistant manager Mridul Banerjee.

Delhi do have a couple of fitness concerns though. Midfielder Bikramjit Singh is injured while Adria Carmona is not expected to feature in the starting XI despite travelling with the squad.

## Outdated jets for warriors, 'corrupt cheese & wine' for babus: Brother of pilot killed in crash pens poem

**NEW DELHI, FEB 6 (PTI):** The bereaved family of late Squadron Leader Samir Abrol, one of the two test pilots who died in a Mirage-2000 crash in Bengaluru last week, has said while the bureaucracy enjoy its "corrupt cheese and wine", the air warriors are given "outdated machines" to fight.

An emotional poem penned by Abrol's brother Sushant, posted on Facebook, states it is an "unforgiving" job to be a test pilot given the risks it poses.

"While the bureaucracy enjoyed its corrupt cheese and wine. We give our warriors outdated machines to fight, They still deliver it with all their prowess and might," Sushant said in the post that was widely shared.

Abrol and Squadron Leader Siddhartha Negi, both from Aircraft and Systems Testing Establishment, died after their fighter jet crashed.

They were conducting an acceptance sortie of the Mirage-2000 trainer, which had been newly-upgraded by state-run aerospace company Hindustan Aeronautics Limited, when it crashed on Friday.

Though the two pilots made a bid to eject, they were caught in the flames as the plane crashed with a huge explosion.

In another post, Sushant said, "It's high time we care not just for lost votes, but also for our lost pilots to the negligence of this corrupt system!!"

The post was also shared by Abrol's wife Garima on Instagram.

## 1st T20 International: New Zealand crush India by 80 runs

**Wellington, Feb 6 (PTI):** A below-par India slumped to their worst ever defeat in T20 Internationals as New Zealand outclassed the visitors in all departments to win the first match of the series by a comprehensive 80-run margin here Wednesday.

Batting first, unheralded keeper-batsman Tim Seifert took the Indian bowling apart blasting 84 off 43 balls as New Zealand posted a commanding 219 for six.

With the crack opening pair of skipper Rohit Sharma (1) and Shikhar Dhawan (29) departing within the Powerplay overs, the chase became a difficult one and India were all out for 139 in 19.2 overs.

Mahendra Singh Dhoni (39 off 31 balls) did play his part but it was always an impossible chase with wickets falling at regular intervals at the other end. India had never lost a T20 International by 50 or more runs prior to this match. India's previous worst was a 49-run loss to Australia back in 2010.

"We failed to get a good partnership. 200 was never going to be easy to chase," said Rohit in the post-match presentation.



New Zealand bowlers kept the pressure on Indian batsmen, especially the two spinners -- left-arm orthodox Mitchell Santner (2/24 in 4 overs) and leg-spinner Ish Sodhi (2/26 in 3 overs).

Senior pacer Tim Southee (3/17 in 4 overs) had the best figures among the bowlers and the best delivery of the match was bowled by Lockie Ferguson, who yorked Dhawan.

They kept the batsmen under tight check and for some like World

Cup aspirant Rishabh Pant (4, 10 balls), it was a frustrating little stay in the middle and he simply couldn't get going.

On a pitch where Indian spinners Yuzvendra Chahal (1/35 in 4 overs) and Krunal (1/37 in 4 overs) went for plenty, the Black Caps slow bowlers literally tightened the noose on the visitors.

While Pant didn't do his chances any good, Vijay Shankar (27 off 17 balls) impressed during his little cameo but would need to do more in

order to book a place in that World Cup bound squad.

The Pandya bothers -- Krunal and Hardik -- endured a contrasting day. While Krunal (he also scored 20 off 18 balls) had an okay outing, Hardik would quickly like to forget the nightmare (2/51 in 4 overs and 4 runs) before India play the second match of the series in Auckland on Friday.

Earlier, Seifert, whose previous best score in T20 Internationals happens to be 14, was promoted to open alongside Colin Munro (34 off 20 balls) and they added 86 runs in only 8.2 overs in a whirlwind start.

Seifert's knock had seven fours and half a dozen sixes, setting the tone for a big total. Seifert showed the intent straightaway as he gave Bhuvneshwar Kumar the charge, picking the knuckle ball early, dispatching it over mid-wicket for a six. The next shot was a four as he stood and hammered past the bowler.

With Munro hitting Khaleel Ahmed (1/48 in 4 overs) for two successive sixes, New Zealand were off to a blazing start scoring 44 off

the first four overs. Seifert was lucky to survive when Dhoni dropped a sharp chance after the batsman had edged one off Krunal.

But he promptly put the next delivery into the stands, moving across towards off and sweeping it over backward square leg.

There weren't any signs of overt footwork but he shuffled enough inside the crease to make room for the big shots and in the process disturbed the line and length of the bowlers.

When Hardik drifted on the leg stump, he was flicked behind the square and when he pitched wide outside off-stump, he was lofted over the cover point region.

In Hardik's next over, Seifert again hit the bowler for a boundary and a flicked six. In between, his elder brother Krunal was switch hit for a boundary.

The elder Pandya finally got a breakthrough when Munro was caught in the deep off Vijay Shankar.

But Seifert never let the momentum drop and hit two more sixes off Krunal, who just kept on pushing the ball through a flatter trajectory.



# Hindu temple vandalised in Pak, PM Imran Khan orders swift action

SAJJAD HUSSAIN

**ISLAMABAD/KARACHI, FEB 6 (PTI):** A Hindu temple was vandalised in Pakistan's Sindh province by miscreants who set the holy books and idols on fire, drawing a strong reaction from Prime Minister Imran Khan who ordered swift and decisive action against the perpetrators.

The incident happened last week in Kumb, a town in Khairpur district. The unidentified assailants fled the after vandalism.

Khan Tuesday night took to Twitter to call upon the provincial authorities to take swift action against the culprits.

"The govt of Sindh must take swift and decisive action against the perpetrators. This is against the teachings of the Quran," Khan said.

The community has



approached the police to register a case against unidentified persons.

There was no caretaker at the temple because the community felt that it was safe enough, since it was surrounded by their houses. After the incident, the Hindus in the

area held a protest in the city, Samaa TV reported.

Rajesh Kumar Haridasani, the adviser of the Pakistan Hindu Council, has demanded the formation of a special task force for the security of Hindu temples. "This action has caused unrest

among the Hindu community. These types of attacks are done in an attempt to disturb religious harmony across the country," he said.

Police said that they were hunting for the attackers but so far no arrest was made. Nobody

or group took responsibility of the attack. Hindus form almost two per cent of the 220 million population in Muslim-majority Pakistan. Most of the Hindus live in Sindh province.

They often complain of harassment by the extremists.

## Pope tamps down Maduro's hopes for Vatican intervention



**ABOARD THE PAPAL PLANE, FEB 6 (AP):** Pope Francis has acknowledged receiving a request from embattled Venezuelan President Nicholas Maduro to help relaunch talks to end the country's political crisis but ruled out any involvement unless opposition leader Juan Guaido requests it.

Francis on Tuesday acknowledged that he hadn't read Maduro's letter, which he said arrived at the Vatican via diplomatic pouch.

He added, "We'll see what can be done." But speaking to reporters en route home from the United Arab Emirates, he recalled that a previous Vatican diplomatic effort to facilitate talks between Maduro and the opposition "went up in smoke."

And he insisted on the basic diplomatic requirement that two sides to any conflict must jointly request external facilitation or mediation of negotiations.

"I'll have a look at the letter, I'll see what can be done. But the preliminary conditions are that both sides ask for it," he told reporters, without citing Guaido by name.

However, Venezuela's opposition, led by Guaido, has made it clear that any offers of dialogue must start with negotiating the terms of Maduro's exit.

Dozens of countries, including the United States and most of the European Union, have recognized congressional leader Guaido as Venezuela's interim president, arguing that Maduro's re-election was invalid.

But Maduro, too, has widespread international backing and holds practical control over the crisis-wracked nation's institutions, including the military.

Maduro said in a statement that he sent

the letter to Pope Francis, explaining that he's deeply Christian in both prayer and action.

"I ask the pope to put forth his best effort, his willingness to help us move down a path of dialogue and hopefully a positive response," Maduro said. Francis had been asked about whether he might follow in the footsteps of St. John Paul II, who helped mediate a border crisis between Argentina and Chile over the Beagle Channel that almost brought the two countries to war in 1978.

The Argentine pope, who was a young Jesuit provincial at the time, called John Paul's intervention "courageous" because it "avoided a war that was on the horizon."

But he noted both Chile and Argentina requested the Holy See's intervention, and that besides, there are plenty of "small steps" that can be taken diplomatically before arriving at actual mediation of a conflict.

Meanwhile, Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan accused European Union countries of "vileness" and acting against democracy a day after more than a dozen of them endorsed Guaido as the country's interim president.

In an address to his ruling party's legislators on Tuesday, Erdogan said the EU countries had "delivered the presidency of a nation to someone who hasn't even been through an election."

Sixteen European countries recognized Guaido on Monday.

Turkey is among at least nine nations including Russia and China that have declared support for embattled President Nicolas Madura.

"Where's democracy? What's this vileness?" Erdogan said of the EU countries. "On one hand you say 'democracy, democracy, democracy'..."

## Pak SC clips wings of armed forces, ISI; says stay away from politics, act within law

**ISLAMABAD, FEB 6 (PTI):**

In a rare rebuke to Pakistan's powerful military, the top court on Wednesday prohibited them from engaging in political activities and directed spy agencies like the ISI to operate within the law.

Delivering a landmark verdict on the 2017 Faizabad sit-in by the hardline Tehreek-e-Labbaik Pakistan (TLP) and other smaller groups, a two-member Supreme Court bench also ordered the government to act against those propagating "hatred, extremism and terrorism".

"We direct the federal and provincial governments to monitor those advocating hate, extremism and terrorism and prosecute the perpetrators in accordance with the law," the bench comprising Justice Qazi Faez Isa and Justice Mushir Alam ruled.

The court directed all government agencies and departments, including those run by the army like spy agency Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI) to operate within the limits defined by the law.

The bench ordered that members of the Armed Forces were prohibited from engaging in any kind of political

activity, which includes supporting a party, faction or individual.

"The government of Pakistan through the Ministry of Defence and the respective Chiefs of the Army, the Navy and the Air Force are directed to initiate action against the personnel under their command who are found to have violated their oath," the court said.

Several experts were of the view that Prime Minister Imran Khan was supported by the country's powerful army in the last year's general election.

Pakistan's powerful military has ruled the country through various coups for nearly half of the country's history since independence in 1947. The military plays an important role in the country's decision making.

The apex court also outlawed religious edicts called fatwas that aimed to harm others.

"A person issuing an edict or fatwa, which harms another or puts another in harm's way, must be criminally prosecuted under the Pakistan Penal Code, the Anti-Terrorism Act, 1997 and/or the Prevention of Electronic Crimes Act, 2016,"

the court ruled.

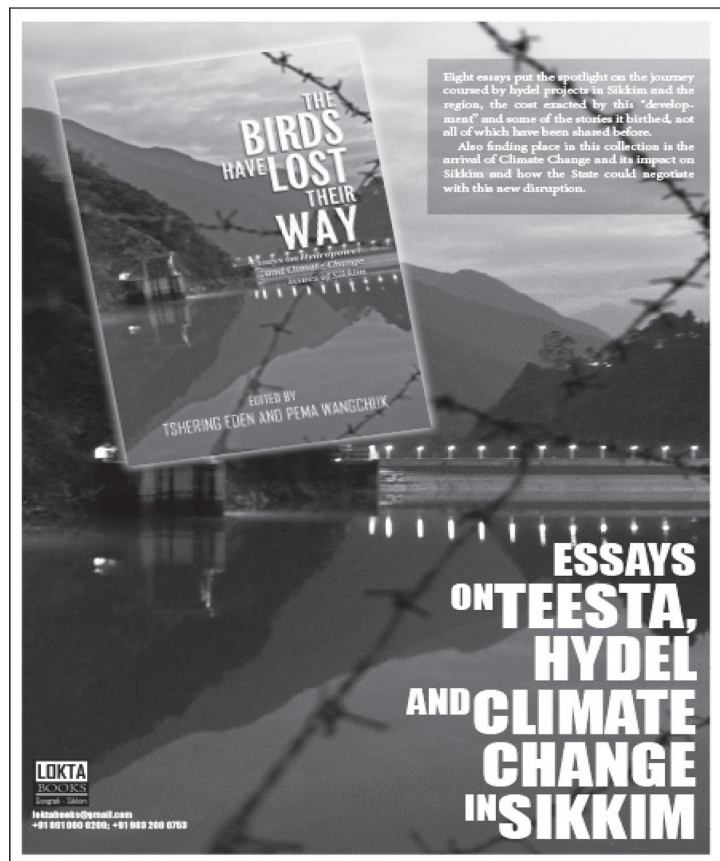
The court upheld that subject to reasonable restrictions imposed by law, citizens have the right to form and to be members of political parties. They can also assemble for peaceful protest.

It said the right to assemble and protest is circumscribed only to the extent that it infringes on the fundamental rights of others, including their right to free movement and to hold and enjoy property.

The court ordered that those protesters who obstruct people's right to use roads and damage or destroy property must be proceeded against in accordance with the law and held accountable.

It initiated suo motu proceedings on November 21, 2017 after TLP blocked a main highway leading to Islamabad.

During the 20-day long protest in 2017, daily life in Islamabad was disrupted when protesters belonging to the TLP, Tehreek-i-Labbaik Ya Rasool Allah, the Tehreek-i-Khatm-i-Nabuwat and the Pakistan Sunni Tehreek occupied the Faizabad Interchange which connects Rawalpindi and Islamabad, the busiest roads in the twin cities.



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## ROADS & BRIDGES DEPARTMENT GOVERNMENT OF SIKKIM SINGTAM

Memo No. 246/AES/R&B

Date: 02 / 02 / 2019

### RE-TENDER NOTICE

For and on behalf of the Governor of Sikkim, Assistant Engineer-Singtam, Roads & Bridges Department Government of Sikkim, invites sealed tenders under single bid system from the eligible contractors of Class IV Grade enlisted with Sikkim Public Works Department vide Notification No: 515/R&B/PWD/Secy, dated 12.06.2018 and notification No. 556/R&B/PWD/Secy. dated: 28.08.2018 for the construction of fair weather roads, through competitive bidding within the territorial jurisdiction of the Concerned Ward of the Gram Panchayat Unit of Singtam-Khamdong Constituency where the work is to be executed. The details of works and time schedule are as under:

SL No.	Name of Work	Cost of Work put to tender (in Rs)	Earnest Money @ 2.50% (in Rs)	Cost of Tender documents (in Rs)	Completion Time
1	Const. of fair weather road from Beng to Bhirkuna (addl.)				
	Km 1st	Rs. 4,238,496.00	Rs. 105,970.00	Rs. 1500.00	09 months
2	Const. of fair weather road at Ramitey Dara				
	Km 1st	Rs. 2,119,248.00	Rs. 52,981.00	Rs. 1500.00	09 months
3	Const. of fair weather road from Maney Gumpa to Thansing (addl.)				
	Km 1st	Rs. 4,238,496.00	Rs. 1,05,970.00	Rs. 1,500.00	09 months

### TIME SCHEDULE:-

1	Date of submission of application with Bank receipt & TDR for issue of Tender Documents.	12th February 2019 (10.00am to 4.00pm) at respective Gram Prashashan Kendra where work is to be executed.
2	Last Date and Time for submission of Tender:	13th. February 2019 (10.00am to 1.00pm) at respective Gram Prashashan Kendra where work is to be executed.
3	Date and Time for Opening of Tender:	13th. February 2019 (1:30 PM) at respective Gram Prashashan Kendra where work is to be executed.

### CONDITIONS OF CONTRACT:

- Tender is open only to the eligible Contractors/Firms of appropriate Class/Area.
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- The application should enclosed attested copies of the a) Goods & Services Tax Clearance Certificate (b) Validated/Updated Contractor Enlistment Certificate along the application. It is mandatory to produce the original validated/Updated Enlistment Certificate during sale/Issue of the Tender Documents for verification.
- The prescribed Non-Transferable Tender Documents (excluding the Tender Form) can be obtain during the period specified in (As above) from the office of the Assistant Engineer-Singtam, Roads & Bridges Department, Singtam on production of requisite Bank Receipt of the State Bank of Sikkim towards the cost of Tender Documents (Non-Refundable) under the Head "0059-80-800" cost of Tender Form (Roads & Bridges).
- Earnest money deposit @ 2.50% in the State Bank of Sikkim shall be in the form of Deposit Receipt of Schedule Bank which includes deposits in the form of Temporary Deposit Receipt (TDR) in favour of the Accounts Officer, Roads & Bridges Department, Nirman Bhawan, Gangtok. Tender Form shall be issued only on production of toward deposit receipts of 2.50% earnest money.
- The Tender documents, including the Tender Form with quoted offer should be placed in a sealed cover with the name of the tenderers and the name of work superscripted on it, supporting documents listed at SL No: (a) & (b) above should be enclosed with the offer.
- Sealed Tenders may be deposited in the Tender Box in the office of the Assistant Engineer-Singtam, Roads & Bridges Department, Singtam, on the date and within the time indicated above.
- Tenders shall be opened by a Tender Opening Committee as prescribed by the Government in the presence of the tenderers on the date and time indicated above.
- The Tenderer should sign on every page of the tender documents as Acceptance of the General Direction and Conditions of the contract and other laid down norms. The rate quoted should be both in figures and words and should be inclusive of GST and all other Taxes and Levies. Over writing and corrections should be avoided and if made should be authenticated. Incomplete/Conditional tenders shall be rejected forthwith.
- In case of any discrepancy in rate(s) printed in the schedule of Rates and Quantities issued with the tender documents, rates as per approved Schedule of Rates will be taken as correct. For items outside the Schedule of Rates (SOR), the rates shall be as per the technically checked estimate/analysis. Decision of the PCE-cum-Secretary/Head of the Department will be final in the regard.
- The work value, scope and quantum of the work are subjected to change; the contractor shall execute the work as per the directives of the Department. No claim on this account is entertained whatsoever. If any claim is made, it shall be as per the agreement rates.
- The Department reserves the rights to hold payments to the contractor unless test certificates are not produced by the contractor when called upon to do so.
- Avoidable damages due to negligence of the contractor shall be at his/her own risk and cost. The Department shall not be liable for payment of such damages (if any), including accidents to labour at site.
- The offer shall remain valid for a period for 90 (Ninety) days. The work should commence within 15 (fifteen) days from the issue of Work Order.
- All the conditions as mentioned in the NIT shall be deemed to a part of the agreement to be entered with the contractor. Security deposit shall be collected by deductions from the running bills of the contractor @ 5.00% of the value of work done.
- The Department reserves the right to accept or reject any or all tenders without assigning any reason thereof.
- The recoveries of Royalties on Forest Produce shall be as per rates notified by the Government from time to time and applicable on the date of payment. In no case, claim of any contractor for deduction as per rates incorporated in Analysis of Rates or Schedule of Rates on the date of tender shall be acceptable.
- Subletting of contract work is against the norms and it comes to the notice, the original contract shall be cancelled and appropriate action shall be initiated as per the rules.
- The Department also reserves the right to increase, decrease, alter or modify the item of works as indicated in the NIT without assigning any reason thereof.
- In case the man power employed by the contractors are from outside the State or neighboring countries, it shall be the responsibility of the contractors to get them registered with the Labour Department, Government of Sikkim as per the relevant Labour Laws.
- Use of explosive shall be regulated as under:
  - Transportation, Handling, storage and use of Explosives (if necessary) shall be in accordance with the provision of the India Explosive Act and General Guidelines, Circulars issued by the department and other competent authorities on the subject from time to time.
  - The rules and regulations issued by the Sikkim Public Works Department or any other competent authority shall strictly be adhered to with regard to transportation, storage; handling and use of explosives shall be maintained by the contractor.
- The contractor shall also make arrangement to have photographs of the works taken at least at three stages of the construction period i.e. beginning, middle and completion stages.
- Damage of properties in and around the work site must be avoided at all cost. The contractor shall be held responsible for any acts of negligence and shall be made to make good the damages.
- It is accepted to the tenderer to have inspected the site before submitting his/her bid. There may be possible site difficulties for which the tenderer should have their own correct assessment before submitting the bid.
- The cost of Stock materials supplied from the Departmental store will be deducted from the contractor's bills as per rules.
- The bidders shall produce a Certificate of Residence from the concerned Gram Panchayat Unit where the work is to be executed.

Sd/-

**ASSISTANT ENGINEER  
SINGTAM SUB DIVISION  
ROADS & BRIDGES DEPARTMENT**

**R.O. No. 652/IPR/Pub/Classi./18-19  
dt. 06.02.2019**





**STAR POWER!** The Creed actor Michael B. Jordan looks happy to be taking part in Oprah's SuperSoul Conversations in New York City.

# How Uri's popular 'How's the Josh' line came to life

JUSTIN RAO

**MUMBAI, FEB 6 (PTI):** "Uri: The Surgical Strike" director Aditya Dhar says its popular dialogue 'how's the josh?', which has been invoked by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his ministers, comes from a childhood memory.

The film is based on the 2016 Indian Army's surgical strikes on terror launch pads in Pakistan as a retaliation for the Uri attack that claimed the lives of 17 army personnel. The film features Vicky Kaushal in the lead role.

Recalling the story behind the catch-phrase, Aditya told PTI, "I had some friends from Defence background, so with them I used to go to a lot of Army clubs. There was one in Delhi where we used to go for Christmas or New Year parties. There used to be a retired Brigadier who would line up all the kids in front of him and have a chocolate in his hand."

"He would say 'How's the josh?' and we were to respond with 'high sir!' The kid who was the loudest got the chocolate. Being a foodie, I used to be the loudest and always got the chocolate," Aditya told PTI.

The phrase has acquired a life of its own, something that the director had never anticipated.

"I have heard very few Army people use the phrase. It is not something which is used extensively. What I did was I used the line in the right way in the film and now it has taken off to another level."

When Aditya sat down to pen "Uri: The Surgical Strike", he knew he had to include the line.

"The line was there right from the first draft. As a writer, we write according to our personal experiences, our memories. It is an amalgamation of everything. I had the line with me in my memory and this was the perfect film for it to come out."

The film, which released on January 11, has emerged as a huge blockbust-

er, still running to packed houses and all set to enter the Rs 200-crore club. For the first-time filmmaker, Aditya says the

response has been "magical, beautiful" and the magnitude of love coming the film's way was something the team never anticipated.

The film's journey-and its eventual success-is stuff of legends for Aditya.

The director was working on "Raat Baaki", which was supposed to feature Pakistani actor Fawad Khan and Katrina Kaif in the lead but Khan had to exit the project after Pakistani artistes were banned from working in India in the aftermath of the Uri attacks.

Aditya turned the situation on its head and made a different film, which has not only been a box office success but also taught him to use unpredictable nature of the business in his favour.

"I learnt in this industry that whatever the adversity, you have to just push yourself and change the situation in your favour. When the surgical strikes happened and Pakistani artistes were banned, everyone was sad that our film won't get made."

"I wanted to know what happened during the attacks because that sounded like a great story. That switch happened very fast. It is the only way to survive in this industry, it is difficult, you have to be mentally strong. No matter what, you've to always keep the josh high," he said.



## Jennifer Lawrence is officially engaged to Cooke Maroney

**LOS ANGELES, FEB 6 (PTI):**

Jennifer Lawrence and Cooke Maroney have got engaged after dating for over nine months. According to PageSix, the 28-year-old Oscar winner was recently seen wearing a massive engagement ring while she was hanging out with the 34-year-old art gallerist in New York City. "It was a giant rock. They seemed like they were celebrating and people were talking about it," a source told the outlet.

"The ring was very noticeable. They were sitting back in a corner. She was wearing a cute black dress with white polka dots," it added.

A representative of the actor confirmed to the outlet that the couple will be getting married soon.

She was first romantical-



ly linked to Maroney in June 2018. They are reported to have been introduced by Lawrence's best friend Laura Simpson.

Before Maroney, Lawrence was in relationship with director Darren Aronofsky, who directed her in 2017's "mother!".

## Kunal Khemu to shift gears with crime series 'Abhay'

**MUMBAI, FEB 6 (PTI):** After featuring in a string of comedy films, Kunal Khemu is ready to shift gears with a crime show as he believes it is important to experiment as an artiste.

A former child star, Kunal started his career as a male lead with films like "Kalyug" and "Traffic Signal". His career, however, hit a rough patch with his next few movies failing to leave a mark at the ticket windows.

He found success again with comedy films "Go Goa Gone" and "Golmaal" series.

"Golmaal" and 'Go Goa Gone' are great franchise films to have as an actor but it is nice to experiment with something that puts me in a different zone and the upcoming series 'Abhay' is one of those," Kunal told PTI in an interview. Kunal will next be playing an investigative officer in Zee5's crime thriller series 'Abhay'.

"I wasn't looking for something different or doing something in the serious zone. I liked the whole space of the show. I knew it will be a break away for me as for the last few years



I have been concentrating on comedy. It was interesting to be in this intense space." The series marks the digital debut of Kunal and

he hopes that things change for him professionally, just like it did wonders for Saif Ali Khan after "Sacred Games". "I am an ardent watcher of lot of series on the web platform. I enjoyed watching 'Mirzapur', 'Sacred Games'. There are interesting shows. "It is a new space and people are experimenting with stories. I don't know how the economics of it works, like how we have box office for films."

The eight-episode crime thriller premieres on Zee5 from February 7 with two episodes each month. The 35-year-old actor says "Abhay" is inspired by true crime cases.

"I am a fan of crime investigative series. There is a different case in every episode. But what remains constant is Abhay and his life and there are things about his life that you understand layer by layer."

**ARIES:** So, Aquarius: If no one suggests stopping long enough to smell the roses, will you still downshift to savor certain exquisite moments? Today, a sync-up of the moon and sensual Venus serves up a reminder that the sweetest juice isn't found in the low-hanging fruit. The kind of joy you're looking for can only be discovered in those quiet moments when you're not rushing to finish a deadline or accommodate someone else's desires.

**TAURUS:** Not getting the results you want, Taurus? Perhaps you haven't spelled out your requirements in plain enough language. You may think you're being crystal clear while others find your instructions too complex. Check in. The best use of your time today may be to orient and train your team—and literally get hands-on with the process.

**GEMINI:** Want to make it rain in 2019, Gemini? Today's harmonious hookup of the moon and creative Venus in your wealth sectors can inspire some brilliant ideas about making money. You COULD stay on the predictable

"working in corporate" path, but do you have a special skill set or talent that you can monetize? How about that thing that everyone always comes to you for help with but you don't even think of as a "gift"? You may be overlooking the obvious. Can't see the forest for the trees? Ask your friends for their input.

**CANCER:** Look beyond your go-to circle for a co-conspirator today, Crab, whether you're seeking a professional or romantic partner in crime. Venus is parked in your relationship house, and she's making eyes at the moon in your exploratory ninth house. Stability is nice, but right now you also need someone with an edge. Coupled Cancers can make the most of this one-day transit by planning your next vacation.

**LEO:** Dial it down a notch—or seven—today, Leo. Under today's tender moon-Venus tryst, you'll catch way more flies (or whatever you're trying to snag) with honey than you will with vinegar. If you're part of a group project, even if you think you have the perfect solution, call a meeting and get everyone's input. For one

thing, it'll empower the team and make people feel like their opinions are valued.

**VIRGO:** Romance takes precedence today, Virgo, so lift your nose from the grindstone and let your love light shine. An alignment of affectionate Venus and the moon in your most amorous houses makes interactions extra scintillating whether you're single or spoken for. If you're ready to let someone know how you feel or to share a secret with your mate, go for it!

**LIBRA:** Clutter, clutter everywhere? The interior decorating bug is biting today—and thanks to a harmonious hookup of your ruler, aesthetic Venus, in your home zone and the moon in your organizational sector, you can incorporate beauty that's also practical. For instance, have you been craving a sit-stand desk? Or better storage for all your treasures?

**SCORPIO:** You're in rare flirting form today—which is truly saying something for a naturally enchanting Scorpio! No need to apologize for your coquettish

ways: under a seductive sync-up of romantic Venus in your expressive third house and the moon in your romantic fifth, you have the green light to make the first move. Not sure where to begin? Your flashing gaze may be all that's needed to cast a spell!

**SAGITTARIUS:** Where's the fire, Archer? Slow your roll and take time to nurture yourself! That's the directive of today's soothing sync-up of pleasure-centric Venus and the moon in your home-and-self-focused houses. Let any non-essential calls go to voicemail, and trust that your friend will be able to sort out her latest "crisis" on her own!

**CAPRICORN:** Ready, set, goal? Not so fast, Capricorn. As impatient as you may be to lunge into high-productivity mode, today's stars have a different suggestion for you. With considerate Venus in Capricorn sweetly aligned with the moon, let work be priority number two and put people first. Chat up your colleagues and ask sincere questions. And when you log into your social

media feeds, don't just check how many likes your latest quip got. Spend time commenting on other people's posts to re-engage with their lives.

**AQUARIUS:** Don't buy into the idea that if you want a job done right, you have to do it yourself. If you're willing to let that go, Aries, you might just draw in some super-competent people who will make your workload lighter and your workday more pleasurable! Under today's Venus-moon connection, a powerful woman may step in and support you with the very thing you've found so overwhelming!

**PISCES:** You're in your creative element today, Pisces, thanks to the sizzling sync-up of the moon in your sign and playful Venus in your collaborative eleventh house. Don't get so lost in your thoughts that you miss out on prime opportunities to connect with other people. As easy as it can be for your internally focused sign to go into retreat mode, brainstorming sessions with colleagues can lead to surprising breakthroughs—not to mention enhanced esprit de corps.

## REQUIRED FOR CANADA

**Nurses,  
Caregivers,  
Chef-Waiters-Butchers-Bakers,  
Driver,  
Farm Workers - Meat Packers  
IT PROFESSIONAL**



Walk for Interview & Resume Submission



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